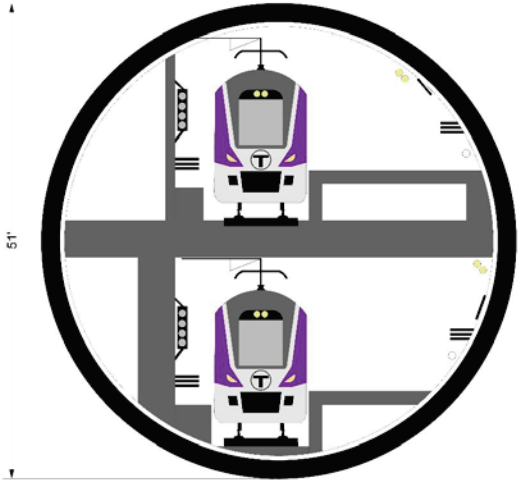
massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

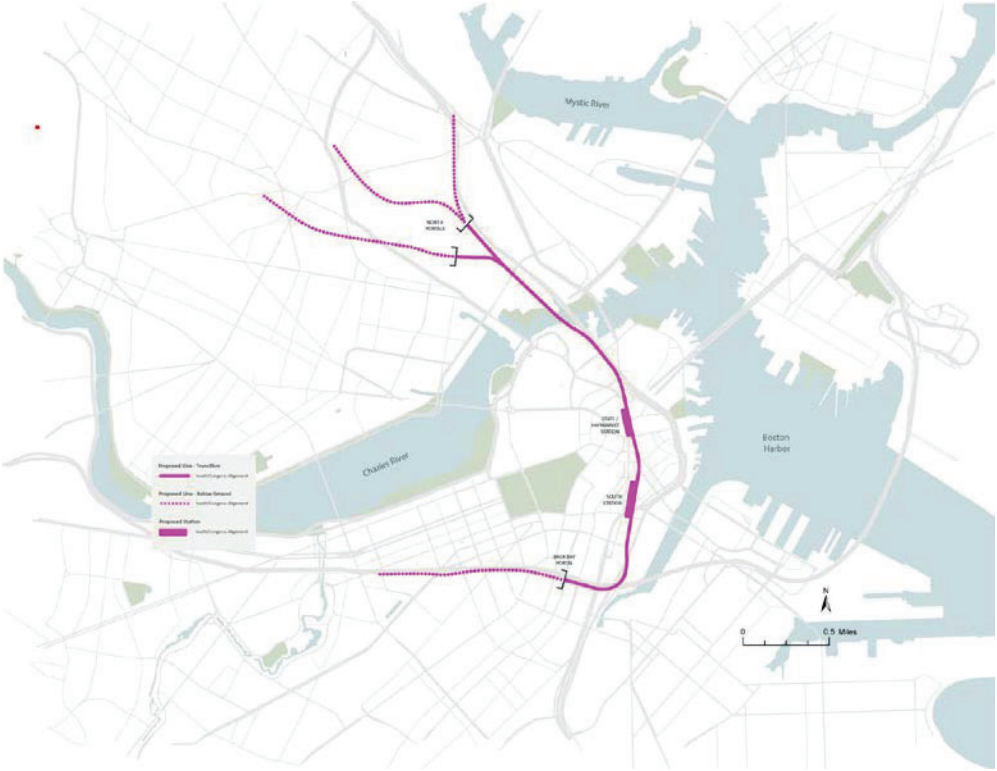
# Secretary Stephanie Pollack
# Report to the Board

Monday, December 17, 2018

# North-South Rail Link Feasibility Reassessment Meeting held on December 10th

- Preferred alignment: two tracks, 51ft diameter tunnel, South Station/Congress Street alignment. Preferred alignment to inform future decision-making through the normal project development process.



# New MBTA General Manager Appointed

- December 11, we announced that GM Luis Ramirez was leaving
- Deputy General Manager Jeff Gonneville will handle GM responsibilities through January 1
- On January 1, Steve Poftak will assume role of MBTA General Manager

# $10.8 Million of Federal Investment in Western Massachusetts Freight Line

- Massachusetts received federal grant - Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)
- Grant will be combined with funding from MassDOT and New England Central Railroad (NECR)
- Money will be used to upgrade NECR main line in Western MA including:
  - Replacing 31 miles of rail and 20,000 crossties
  - Strengthening 20 bridges

# North Washington Street Bridge Replacement Project

- Public meetings held on November 27, November 28, November 29

- Significant construction operations begin in spring 2019

# Other Highway Division Projects

- Longfellow Bridge: bicycle lane flex posts remain in place as MassDOT evaluates stakeholder feedback and since no plowable snow is currently in the Boston forecast.
- Storrow Drive westbound pilot line striping: approximately 800 feet westbound have been re-striped in an effort to ease traffic congestion in this area.

# Community Transit Grants

- Baker-Polito Administration announced a total of $10.2 million in Community Transit Grant Program awards

*MassDOT held an event last week to celebrate the awarding of funding for paratransit service vans to the South Shore Community Action Council in Plymouth*

*Funding given to Pioneer Valley for purchase of PVTA vans and buses*

# Massachusetts Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Board

- New members sworn in at meeting on December 13
- Discussed project prioritization, State Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans, and 2019 meeting schedule

# Registry of Motor Vehicles

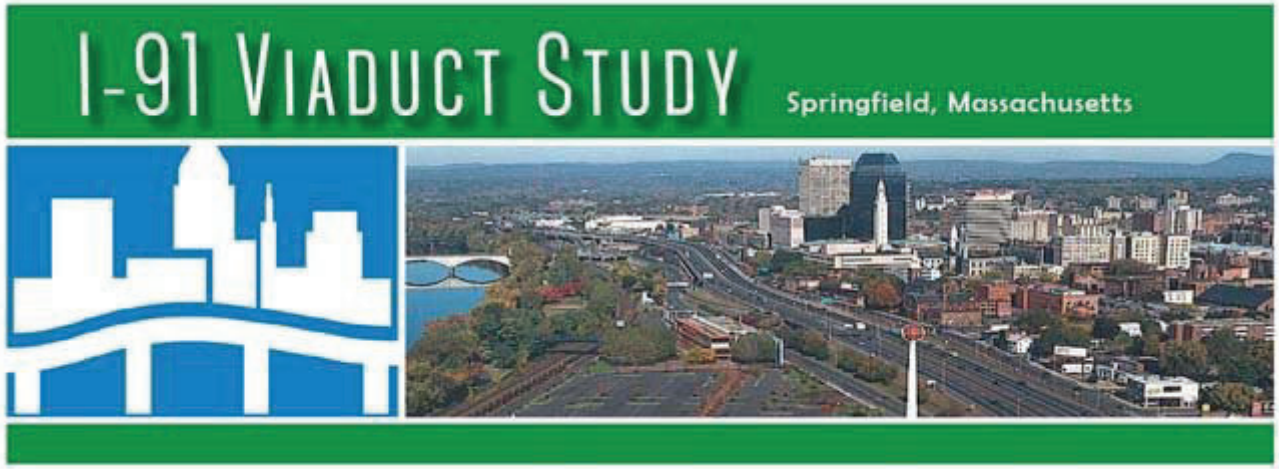
- November service center wait times: 93% of customers served in under 30 minutes, 7% served between 30-60 minutes, 1% waited more than 60 minutes.
- RMV expanded service center options: AAA members now may visit one of 34 AAA locations in MA which now offer RMV renewal services, including option for REAL ID credential
- •RMV opened new Plymouth Service Center in March, opened new Haverhill Service Center in September, opened new Danvers Service Center in October. Completed improvements to the Braintree Service Center in November.
- •Completed improvements including new seating in Revere, Lowell and Roslindale Service Centers this month.

# Cambridge-Watertown Greenway Begins Phase II

- Groundbreaking event on December 5
- Phase II will add an additional 1.25 miles
- Will connect Phase I Greenway to existing bike path at Fresh Pond Parkway

# Release of Springfield I-91 Viaduct Final Report

- Final Report released on November 30
- MassDOT will pursue a future rehabilitation of the Viaduct for a long-term project along with several short and mid-term associated projects



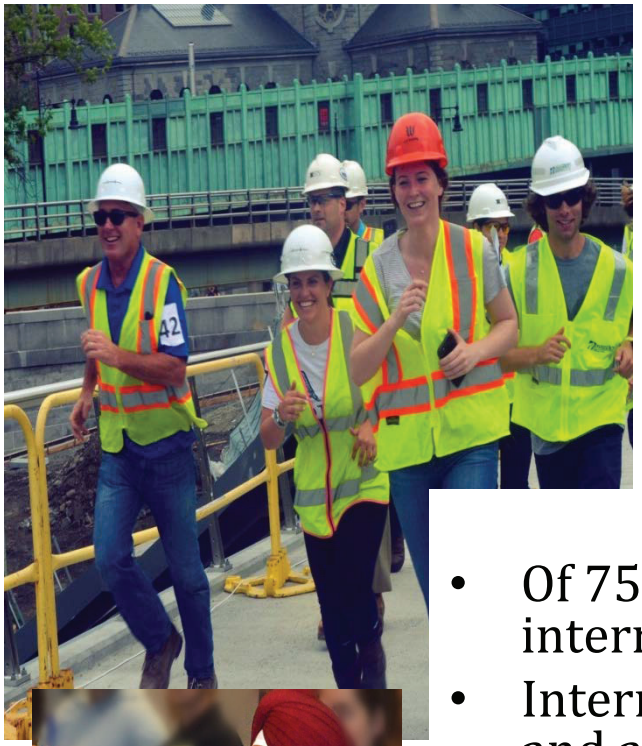
# HR Update: Talent Acquisition

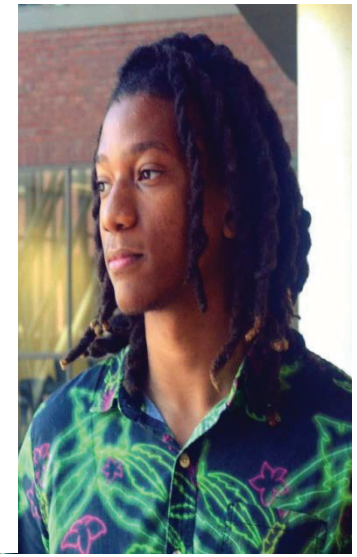
## HR Business Partnership Yields Results: Hiring Rate Consistently Surpassing Attrition

| | Jul-17 | Aug-17 | Sep-17 | Oct-17 | Nov-17 | Dec-17 | Jan-18 | Feb-18 | Mar-18 | Apr-18 | May-18 | Jun-18 | Jul-18 | Aug-18 | Sep-18 | Oct-18 | Nov-18 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hire | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 23 | 13 | 13 | 15 | 11 | 19 | 16 | 9 |
| Termination | 10 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 6 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 11 | 9 | 6 | 10 | 9 | 4 |

MassDOT Highway Hires, Rehires vs Terminations
July 2017 - November 2018

# Student Interns Conversion to Full Time Employee



**32% of Civil Engineer I Openings Were Filled by Former Interns in 2018**

- Of 75 openings, 24 hires were former interns.
- Interns were hired in 5 of the 6 districts and at HQ
- Newly hired interns are working in Construction, Design, Maintenance Administration, Research & Materials, and Bridges & Structures.